Conference on Safety in Railways

447. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of General Managers on Safetry was held in the Capital in the first week of January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken in the meet; and

(c) what strenuous efforts are bring made by Government to keep the operational staff, while on duty, away from the alcohol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a)and (b)Yes, Sir. A special meeting of General Managers of Zonal Railways on safety was held on 08.01.03. Detailed issues pertaining to safety were deliberated upon and the following major decisions were taken:

(i) Enhanced financial powers to the General Managers for faster implementation of safetry works

(ii) Intensive supervision and control by the General Managers and the Divisional Railway Managers.

(iii) More effective and intensive inspections at all levels.

(iv) Decision to make safety wing organisation broad based as recommended by the Railway Safety Review Committee.

(v) Empowering Safety Officers to recommend punishments on the lines of the Vigilance advice.

(vi) Installation of Anti Collision Device (ACD) on successful completion of trails.

(c) Some of the steps taken to keep operational staff, while on duty, away from alcohol are as under:—

(i) Breathalyzer checks are conducted while signing on duty.

(ii) Surprise and periodic checks while on actual duty.

(iii) An accident involved driver is given mandatory blood test to find out the content of alcohol.

(iv) Counselling of driving crews by Safety Counsellors.